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The SPECTATOR.

- - - - *Ridet Perjuria Amantum.* Ovid.

MONDAY, *October* 18. 1714.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'ACcording to my Promiſe, I herewith 'tranſmit to you a Liſt of ſeveral 'Perſons, who from time to time de- 'manded the *Flitch of Bacon*, of Sir 'Philip de Somerville and his Deſcendents; as it is 'preſerved in an ancient Manuſcript, under the 'Title of, *The Regiſter of Whichenovre-Hall, and of 'the Bacon Flitch there maintained.*

'In the Beginning of this Record is recited the 'Law or Inſtitution in Form, as it is already print- 'ed in your laſt Paper: To which are added 'Two By-Laws, as a Comment upon the Ge- 'neral Law, the Subſtance whereof is, That the 'Wife ſhall take the ſame Oath as the Husband, '*mutatis mutandis*; and that the Judges ſhall, as 'they think meet, interrogate or croſs-examine 'the Witneſſes. After this proceeds the Regiſter 'in Manner following.

'Aubry de Falſtaff, *Son of Sir* John Falſtaff, *Kt.* 'with *Dame* Maude *his Wife, were the firſt that de- 'manded the Bacon, he having bribed twain of his Fa- 'ther's Companions to ſwear falſely in his Behalf, 'whereby he gained the Flitch: But he and his ſaid Wife*

(Price Two-Pence.)

'*falling immediately into a Diſpute how the ſaid Bacon 'ſhould be dreſſed, it was by Order of the Judges ta- 'ken from him, and hung up again in the Hall.*

'Aliſon, *the Wife of* Stephen Freckle, *brought 'her ſaid Husband along with her, and ſet forth the good 'Conditions and Behaviour of her Conſort, adding 'withall, that ſhe doubted not but he was ready to at- 'teſt the like of her, his Wife; whereupon he, the ſaid* Stephen, *ſhaking his Head, ſhe turned ſuch upon him, 'and gave him a Box on the Ear.*

'Philip de Waverland, *having laid his Hand upon 'the Book, when the Clauſe,* Were I ſole and ſhe ſole, *'was rehearſed, found a ſecret Compunction riſing 'in his Mind, and ſtole it off again.*

'Richard de Loveleſs, *who was a Courtier, and 'a very well-bred Man, being obſerved to heſitate at the 'Words,* after our Marriage, *was thereupon required 'to explain himſelf. He replied, by talking very large- 'ly of his exact Complaiſance while he was a Lover; 'and alledg'd, that he had not in the leaſt diſobliged his 'Wife for a Year and a Day* before Marriage, *which 'he hoped was the ſame Thing.*

'Rejected.

'Jo-

'Joceline Jolly, *Esq*; *making it appear by unquestionable Testimony, That he and his Wife had preserved full and entire Affection for the Space of the first Month, commonly called the* Honey-Moon; *he had, in Consideration thereof, one Kasher bestowed upon him.*

'After this, says the Record, many Years passed over before any Demandant appeared at *Whichenovre-Hall*; insomuch that one would have thought that the whole Country were turned *Jews*, so little was their Affection to the Flitch of Bacon.

'The next Couple enrolled had like to have carried it, if one of the Witnesses had not deposed, That dining on a *Sunday* with the Demandant, whose Wife had sate below the Squire's Lady at Church, she the said Wife dropped some Expressions, as if she thought her Husband deserved to be knighted; to which he returned a passionate *Piso!* The Judges taking the Premises into Consideration, declared the aforesaid Behaviour to imply an unwarrantable Ambition in the Wife, and Anger in the Husband.

'It is recorded as a sufficient Disqualification of a certain Wife, that speaking of her Husband she said, *God forgive him!*

'It is likewise remarkable, that a Couple were rejected upon the Deposition of one of their Neighbours, that the Lady had once told her Husband, that *it was her Duty to obey*; to which he replied, *Oh! my Dear, you are never in the Wrong.*

'The violent Passion of one Lady for her Lapdog; the turning away of the old House-Maid by another; a Tavern-Bill torn by the Wife, and a Taylor's by the Husband; a Quarrel about the Kissing-Crust; spoiling of Dinners, and coming in late of Nights; are so many several Articles which occasioned the Reprobation of of some Scores of Demandants, whose Names are recorded in the aforesaid Register.

'Without enumerating other particular Persons, I shall content my self with observing, that the Sentence pronounced against one *Gervase Poacher* is, that *he might have had Bacon to his Eggs, if he had not heretofore scolded his Wife when they were over-boiled.* And the Deposition against *Dorothy Do-little* runs in these Words; *That she had so far usurped the Dominion of the Coal fire, (the Stirring whereof her Husband claimed to himself) that by her good Will she never would suffer the Poker out of her Hand.*

'I find but Two Couples, in this First Century, that were successful: The First, was a Sea-Captain and his Wife, who, since the Day of their Marriage, had not seen one another till the Day of the Claim. The Second, was an honest Pair in the Neighbourhood: The Husband was a Man of plain good Sense, and a peaceable Temper; the Woman was dumb.

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